TMC has set the following trash limits for cotton processed in modernized ginneries;

Staple Class	Trash Limit (%)
Extra long	2.0
Long and Superior Medium	3.0
Medium and Short	3.5
Closed boll types	6.0

As a result of modernization of G and P factories in the country, quality of cotton has tremendously improved. There are G and P units which produce cotton with least contamination (trash content upto 1%). The modernized G and P factories are getting premium price of Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000 per candy and have good reputation, easy marketing of bales and faster turnover. They have better clientele, quick payments, higher production speed and no hassles of managing labourers, etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view view of above.

Package for Weavers of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh

1791. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at least 500 poor weavers in the textile belt in Tamil Nadu sold their kidneys to repay loans and meet other financial commitments, as reported recently;

(b) if so, whether Government would announce suitable package for the weavers of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would formulate a suitable textile policy, in consultation with concerned States and Self Help Groups; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No such incident has taken place in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) National Textile Policy was announced in the year 2000. The handloom sector also forms a part of the National Textile Policy 2000, the details of which are as under:-

The handloom sector is known for its heritage and the tradition of excellent craftsmanship. It provides livelihood to millions of weavers and craftsperson. The industry has not only survived but also grown over the decades due to its inherent strength like flexibility of production in small quantities, openness to innovation, low level of capital investment and immense possibility of designing fabrics. Government will continue to accord priority to this sector. Steps would be taken to promote and develop its exclusiveness for the global market. Measure will include the following:-

- Training modules will be developed for weavers engaged in the production of low value added items, who may not be able to survive the competition consequent on globalization, with the objective of upgrading their skills to enable them to find alternate employment in the textile or other allied sector;
- Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with the State Governments, for better working environment and the social security of the weavers;
- Effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages will be provided;
- The implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 will be reviewed keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers;
- Weavers Service Centres will be revamped in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID.
- As merchandising and marketing will be central to the success o

the handloom sector, the present package of schemes for production of value added fabrics will be streamlined; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced; and joint ventures encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

Merger of D.A. with Basic pay for NTC Employees

1792. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of National Textile Corporation have allowed merger of 50 per cent of D.A. with their basic pay, w.e.f. October, 2006, while Government had allowed such merger w.e.f. January, 2004;

(b) whether this belated decision of Board of N.T.C. has affected the interests of the employees of NTC badly; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider grant of the merger of 50 per cent D.A. with the basic pay of the employees w.e.f. January, 2004, as has been done for all Central Government/PSUs employees, so as to cover the financial interests of the existing/retired employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Government had allowed merger of 50 per cent DA with basic pay from 1.4.2004 to the CDA employees in Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs). However, as per Deptt. of Public Enterprises orders dated 24.5.2005, such merger shall be allowed to employees of those Public Sector Undertakings that are not loss making and are in a position to absorb the additional expenditure on account of merger of DA with basic pay from their own resources without any budgetary support from the Government. Accordingly, the Board of Directors decided to implement these orders w.e.f. 1.10.2006 only, after reviewing the performance of the Company for the year 2005-2006.

Demand and Supply of Raw Silk

1793. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN.: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: